

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

August 23, 2006

Mr. Mike Johanns, Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
14th Street and Independence Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Johanns:

On June 20, 2006, I received a request for a Natural Disaster Determination (NDD) by the US Secretary of Agriculture from the Stillwater County Board of Commissions.

Stillwater County has received substantially below normal precipitation over 100 months of last 108 months. Recorded precipitation from 13 of the last 17 years has been two inches or more below normal. The continued drought conditions have negatively impacted this year's spring crop in Stillwater County. Many of the county's agricultural businesses are in need of loan extensions. The breeding stock has deteriorated due to lack of forage.

I recently received an update on Stillwater County. In addition to the drought conditions, the county has experienced ongoing excessive heat, high winds and major fires since July 6, 2006. The Saunders fire exhausted local resources and resulted in evacuations of both families and livestock. Local emergency and disaster plans have been activated.

I am forwarding a copy of this letter to the State Farm Service Agency office so they may begin to compile the necessary damage assessment information.

Your prompt review and approval of this request will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor

cc: Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger
Nancy Peterson, Department of Agriculture
General Randall Mosley, Department of Military Affairs
Dan McGowan, Disaster & Emergency Services
Randy Johnson, Farm Services Agency
Jesse Aber, Department of Natural Resource & Conservation